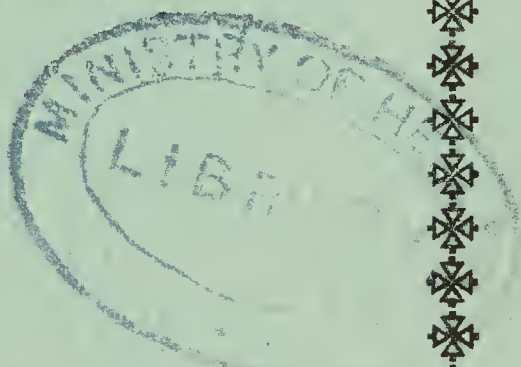


Hebburn Urban District Council.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1954.

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HEBBURN-ON-TYNE :

Printed by SMITH BROS. (Hebburn & Jarrow), Ltd.,  
Lyon Street.

1955.





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# HEBBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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1954—1955

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Coun. W. Jackson, J.P.

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Coun. Mrs. M. Ford.

Coun. W. Bradley.

## **PREFACE.**

**To the Minister of Health and**

**To the Chairman of the Hebburn Urban District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954. The report is drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The main vital statistics for the Urban District show : a slight rise in the population, the Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate; and a fall in the Still Birth Rate, the general Death Rate, Tuberculosis Death Rate and the incidence of Tuberculosis. The Still Birth Rate and Infant Mortality Rates continue to be higher than those of England and Wales and the 160 smaller towns.

The Population of the Urban District has been maintained throughout the last year, there being an increase of 40 persons on the figure for 1953. This year the natural increase, excess of births over deaths, was 225 as compared with 194 last year. Since 1945 the mean natural increase has been 213.6 and the total population has fluctuated between an increase of 530 and 30, while there was a decrease of 60 persons in 1950 and 40 persons in 1952.

There was a rise in the birth rate from 19.02 per 1,000 live births last year to 19.83. The still birth rate dropped to 33.19 per 1,000 total births compared with 40.8 in 1953. Eighteen infants under 1 year of age died throughout the year, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 38.02 per 1,000 live births which is practically the same as last year.

The General Death Rate continues to fall. The present figure of 10.21 per 1,000 population is the lowest ever recorded in the Urban District and compares with 11.3 for England and Wales and for the 160 smaller towns. Since 1945 there has been a steady fall from 11.5 to the present figure.

Forty-five cases of Tuberculosis were notified, which gives an incidence rate of 2 per 1,000 population, compared with 2.6 last year. The death rate for this disease fell from 0.25 per 1,000 population in 1953 to 0.21.

During 1954 Dysentery made its appearance in the Tyneside conurbation. Eighty-two cases were notified in Hebburn and 65.8% of them were in the age group 1—5 years. The incidence of this disease has been steadily rising throughout the country for the last few years.

From the point of view of epidemiology it is an important disease as it can spread easily in the family and in communities of children. Although the majority of the cases are mild, some adults and children have severe attacks. Indeed, the mildness of the disease is an important factor in the spread of the disease as some mothers fail to take their children to see a doctor when the symptoms are mild.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking my Chairman, Members of the Committees, the staff of the Health Department, and my fellow officials for their assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. W. REID,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health



## SECTION A.

### Statistics of the Area.

---

#### A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in acres—1,563.

Estimated Resident Population—23,480.

Number of inhabited houses—7,248.

Number of Council Houses—2,347.

Estimated number of substandard houses—450.

House Density (Persons per house)—3.2.

House Density (Houses per Acre)—4.6.

Rateable Value, 1st April, 1955—£121,300.

Sum represented by penny rate—£456.

#### B. PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.

##### 1. Description of the Area.

The Urban District of Hebburn is roughly rectangular in shape. Its West and North boundaries are formed by the bend of the River Tyne. In the East, Hebburn and Jarrow have a common boundary. The Southern limit of the Urban District is contiguous with Boldon Urban District.

The Newcastle-South Shields Electric Railway sweeps across the District parallel to the course of the River Tyne enclosing a good part of the bad housing in the town, the Shipbuilding and repair yards, a large Electric Gear and other works. Other Industries in the area include Engineering, Chemical, and Paint Works. There is a large Coke Works in the Southern part of the Urban District.

##### 2. Employment.

I am indebted to Mr. Wilcox, the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information about employment, unemployment, and rehabilitation.

The Figures given below are estimates for the main types of employment, and are total numbers for Jarrow and Hebburn.

Industry.	Males Aged 15 and Over.	Females Aged 15 and Over.	TOTAL.
Electrical Engineering ... ..	5,740	1,575	7,315
Shipbuilding and repairing ...	5,113	148	5,261
Constructional and General Eng- ineering ... ..	2,251	323	2,574
Light Electrical Engineering ...	998	776	1,774
National, Local Government, Public Services & Professions	835	663	1,498
Wholesale and Retail Distribu- tions ... ..	585	768	1,353
Irons and Steel Smelting ...	1,056	58	1,114
Building and Civil Engineering...	979	18	997
Catering and Preparation of Food and Drink ... ..	214	719	933
Chemicals and Paints ... ..	408	203	611
Transport & Repair of Vehicles...	369	50	419

### 3. Unemployment.

The monthly number of Men, Women and boys and girls out of work in Hebburn and Jarrow for the first five months of the year was around 1,200.

During the three summer months the figure dropped to about 800. In the last quarter of the year the monthly numbers rose till they were about 1,030 persons unemployed in December, 1954.

### 4. Disabled and Handicapped Persons.

The following persons in Hebburn and Jarrow are registered as disabled within the meaning of the Disablement Persons (Employment) Act, 1944:—

Type.	JARROW.		HEBBURN.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Surgical ... ..	176	4	172	5
Medical ... ..	251	63	150	55
Psychiatric ... ..	27	9	16	11
Others ... ..	90	7	74	7
TOTALS ...	544	83	412	78

#### Unemployed Registered Disabled Persons Registered for Employment included in the above Figures.

Surgical ... ..	19	1	11	1
Medical ... ..	30	15	21	5
Psychiatric ... ..	4	1	2	6
Others ... ..	9	1	8	2
TOTALS ...	62	18	42	14

During 1954 eighteen men and eleven women went through courses of Industrial Rehabilitation and five men and two women were trained in new occupations at Government Training Centres.

### 5. Sickness Morbidity.

The following table give the number of new claims for sickness benefit for Hebburn and Jarrow during the year:—

January	...	947
February	...	916
March	...	906
April	...	575
May	...	584
June	...	653
July	...	501
August	...	600
September	...	641
October	...	370
*November	...	1,334
December	...	720

\* Influenza was prevalent in the area during this month.

### C. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:	M.	F.	Total.
Total .....	237	229	466
Legitimate .....	232	222	454
Illegitimate .....	5	7	12
Birth Rate .....		19.83	
Comparability Factor .....		0.89	
Adjusted Birth Rate .....		17.65	

Still Births:	M.	F.	Total.
Total .....	7	9	16
Legitimate .....	7	8	15
Illegitimate .....	—	1	1
Rate per thousand total live and still births .....		33.19	
Rate per thousand estimated resident population .....		0.68	

Deaths:	M.	F.	Total.
All Causes .....	135	106	241
Death Rate .....		10.21	
Comparability Factor .....		1.27	
Standard Death Rate .....		12.97	

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:	M.	F.	Total.
Total .....	9	9	18
Legitimate .....	9	9	18
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—

**Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :**

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	38.62
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	39.64
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegiti- mate live births .....	Nil.

**Infant Mortality.**

The chief causes of death of infants under 1 year of age was Infection (31.5%). Congenital deformities accounted for 26.3% of deaths and prematurity and other causes for 21.1% each.

**Principal Causes of Death.**

	M.	F.	% of total Deaths.
Heart Disease (all types) .....	40	36	31.5
Cancer (all types) .....	25	17	17.0
Respiratory Disease .....	24	10	14.1
Vascular disease of the Nervous System	15	16	12.8



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN HEBBURN 1954.

	Males	Females	Total	% of Total Deaths
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	4	1	5	2.7
Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1	0.4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	10	3	13	5.3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	5	3	8	3.3
Malignant neoplasm, breast...	—	2	2	0.8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus...	—	2	2	0.8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	8	8	16	6.7
Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	3	—	3	1.2
Diabetes ...	1	—	1	0.4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	15	16	31	12.8
Coronary disease, angina ...	16	9	25	10.3
Hypertension with heart disease ...	6	5	11	4.5
Other heart disease ...	11	17	28	11.6
Other circulatory disease ...	7	5	12	4.9
Influenza ...	3	1	4	1.6
Pneumonia ...	9	2	11	4.5
Bronchitis ...	8	6	14	5.8
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	—	2	0.8
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum ...	3	—	3	1.2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea ...	1	2	3	1.2
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	1	2	0.8
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	2	2	4	1.6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	12	16	28	11.6
Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	—	3	1.2
All other accidents ...	3	4	7	2.9
Suicide ...	2	—	2	0.8
Homicide & operations of war ...	—	—	—	—
All causes ...	135	106	241	

### Vital Statistics of Hebburn for Previous Years.

Year.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1906	23,336	34.8	16.0	136
1916	23,060	30.2	15.6	104
1926	26,190	26.6	11.8	97
1936	22,939	18.7	13.3	90.7
1937	22,700	16.9	12.7	67.9
1938	22,950	19.0	11.7	69.0
1939	23,490	17.6	12.0	48.3
1940	21,770	20.4	14.3	45.3
1941	22,200	18.0	15.5	128.4
1942	21,950	18.7	13.1	80
1943	21,760	20.7	13.7	64
1944	22,290	22.1	13.8	56
1945	22,250	19.3	11.5	48
1946	22,780	22.0	12.8	67.6
1947	22,750	22.1	12.3	65.6
1948	22,990	20.0	10.8	32.4
1949	23,050	21.08	10.6	34.9
1950	22,990	19.1	11.5	40.1
1951	23,140	19.2	11.7	51.5
1952	23,100	18.9	10.9	32.04
1953	23,440	19.02	10.7	38.1
1954	23,480	19.83	10.21	38.62

**Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality in the Year 1954.**  
**Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.**

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs & Great Towns (Including London)	160 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census	Hebburn U.D.
	<b>Rates per 1,000 Home Population.</b>			
<b>Births :—</b>				
Live Births ... ..	15.2	16.8	15.4	19.83
Still Births ... ..	0.36	0.44	0.36	0.68
Still Births (per 1,000 total births) ... ..	23.4	25.6	22.4	33.19
<b>Deaths :—</b>				
All Causes ... ..	11.3	12.05	11.3	10.31
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ... ..	0.17	0.20	0.18	0.21
Influenza ... ..	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.17
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (inc. polioencephalitis) ...	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia ... ..	0.45	0.50	0.49	0.46
	<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</b>			
<b>Deaths :—</b>				
All Causes under 1 year of age ... ..	25.5	29.15	23.77	38.62
Enteritis and diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.08



## CENSUS REPORT 1951.

During the year the Census Report for the County of Durham was published by the Registrar General's Office. It is of interest to give the main facts appertaining to Hebburn Urban District, and to make comparisons with previous Census Reports.

The following extracts have been taken from the commentaries of the Census Reports for 1921, 1931, and 1951.

### 1921.

The general housing of all of the County population is, on an average of rooms per person, neither better nor worse than it was in 1911. But while this is so it must be pointed out that the housing conditions in Durham were amongst the worst in the country in 1911, and that the present County average of 0.77 rooms per person is far lower than any other similar county aggregate so far published in respect of the 1921 Census.

Moreover, comparison between 1911 and 1921 of the families living under crowded conditions of more than 2 persons per room shows that the actual number of families and persons has increased, and that the population of persons living under such conditions which was 29.2% in 1911, or more than 3 times the corresponding population for England and Wales as a whole, has further worsened to 29.5%.

The average size of family shows a reduction from 4.77 persons in 1911 to 4.61 persons in 1921, a drop of over 3%.

The bulk of dwellings are structurally undivided private houses, the average for the county being 77% of the total. Six urban areas have proportions below this figure, the lowest being South Shields C.B. (16%), Gateshead C.B. (22%), and Jarrow M.B. (34%), and in these, flats, tenements, etc., are proportionally the most numerous with 79, 78 and 62% respectively.

In respect of room accommodation Hartlepool R.D. claims first place with a general average of 5.27 rooms per dwelling. At the other end of the scale, Leadgate U.D. stands lowest (3.09), followed by Felling U.D. (3.16), Hebburn U.D. (3.21) and Jarrow M.B. (3.31).

### 1931.

The feature claiming perhaps the most prominent notice is the large and growing number of decreases recorded. In three of the five County Boroughs the populations have declined since 1921, South Shields heading the list with a loss of 5,144 persons or 4.3 per cent; in Gateshead also the decline is of considerable magnitude.

Of the 30 Municipal Boroughs and Urban districts no fewer than 20 record a loss of population during 1921-1931 as compared with five in the preceding 10 years, outstanding examples being those of Jarrow



M.B. and Bishop Auckland U.D., where the populations have declined by 3,558 and 2,013 or 10.0 and 14.1 per cent respectively.

For the County as a whole the population density is 2.3 persons per acre as in 1921; in the urban and rural portions of the County the densities are 10.1 and 0.7 respectively. In the individual urban districts the figures range widely from the average, being generally at a maximum in the larger towns (Jarrow 40.8; Gateshead 39.1; South Shields 35.6) and the lowest in the smaller areas (Tanfield 1.9; and Willington 2.4) where they indicate conditions approaching those of rural areas.

Some Wards in South Shields, Gateshead, Sunderland, West Hartlepool C.B., Hartlepool M.B., Jarrow M.B. and Hebburn U.D. exhibit densities exceeding 100 persons per acre. Notwithstanding the increase in all families and population, the number of 'overcrowded' families has been reduced by 15,591 and the population therein by 131,498.

The rate of reduction, viz., from 29.5 per cent. of the total population in 1921 to 20.3 per cent. in 1931 shows great improvement over the increase occurring in the previous decade (29.2 per cent. in 1911 to 29.5 per cent. in 1921).

In respect of room accommodation, Stockton R.D. claims first place with a general average of 5.16 rooms per dwelling. At the other end stands Hebburn U.D. with a minimum of 3.20 rooms followed by Jarrow M.B. (2.22) and Felling U.D. (3.27)

## **1951.**

### **Population.**

In the pre-war period, 1931-9, the resident population of Durham as a whole decreased by 3.2 per cent in contrast to an increase of 3.7 per cent in the resident population of England and Wales. The decrease was not evenly spread over the County. The main decreases occurred in the group of areas contained in the Tyneside conurbation which experienced a reduction of 4.9 per cent.

### **Private Households.**

The average number of persons per private household is now 3.40 as compared with 4.04 in 1931, the population recorded in private households having decreased by 1.2 per cent while the number of households increased by 17.3 per cent to a total of 422,153.

The percentage of persons living at densities of over two persons per room has declined for the County as a whole from 20.29 in 1931 to 5.49 in 1951, but overcrowding is still serious in some parts of the County. The areas with the highest proportions of population living at over 2 persons per room in 1951 were Gateshead (9.45 per cent), Bishop Auckland (9.28), Tow Law (8.14), Hebburn (7.81), Jarrow (7.78) and Sunderland (7.55).

**Piped Water.**

18 per cent of households in the County were reported as being without exclusive use of piped water supply. This compared with 17 per cent for England and Wales.

Deficiencies in availability of piped water were greatest on Tyneside, in Sunderland and adjacent areas, in the Hartlepoons and in certain rural districts. Areas with highest percentages of households in undivided occupations entirely without water supplies were Weardale R.D. (26), Sunderland R.D. (23), Sunderland C.B. (21), Jarrow (20) and Hartlepool M.B., South Shields, Darlington R.D., Boldon, Hebburn, Seaham, Houghton-le-Spring, West Hartlepool C.B., (each with between 9 and 14 per cent); areas with the highest percentages for households in undivided occupations sharing piped water were Gateshead (10), Hartlepool M.B. (9), Stanley, Bishop Auckland (each 8); South Shields, Jarrow, Hebburn, Felling (each 7).

**Cooking Stove.**

5 per cent of the households of the County are without exclusive use of cooking stoves, by comparison with 7 per cent for England and Wales.

**Kitchen Sink.**

19 per cent of households in the County were without exclusive use of a kitchen sink, by comparison with 13 per cent for England and Wales as a whole.

**Water Closet.**

19 per cent of households in the County were reported as being without exclusive use of water closet. This is a little below the corresponding figure of 21 per cent for England and Wales.

Conditions in the Tyneside area, in the urban areas on Tees-side, in the Hartlepoons, Sunderland, Seaham and in Durham M.B., were good in the sense that fewer than 2 per cent of households in undivided occupations were entirely without waterclosets, and after South Shields the highest proportion of such households sharing a watercloset was 13 per cent for Jarrow.

**Fixed Bath.**

49 per cent of households in Durham were without their own fixed baths, by comparison with 45 per cent for England and Wales as a whole.

**Housing.**

Most of the substantial losses in population in the 1931-1951 period have been in the Tyneside industrial areas, and in the coalfield areas. They have been accompanied by very substantial reductions in density of occupation dwellings; the areas of the County with the highest percentages of population housed at an average of over 2 persons per room



in 1931 were, except for Sunderland, on Tyneside viz., Hebburn (34 per cent), Jarrow (33), Sunderland (29), Gateshead (29), Felling (27) and South Shields (26). Four of these still ranked amongst the six highest in the County in this respect in 1951 which were Gateshead and Bishop Auckland (each 9) and Hebburn, Jarrow, Sunderland and Tow Law (each with 8. Dwellings on Tyneside are, on average, smaller than those in the southern parts of the County.

### **Social Class Distribution.**

The social class distribution of Durham, compared with the pattern of England and Wales as a whole, shows a shift **downwards** as a result of the relatively larger numbers of males in Social Class IV, which includes most of the mining and agricultural working force, and in Social Class V which included dockside workers and unskilled labourers.

The northern and eastern parts of the County, containing the Tyneside and many coal mines, show a different social composition with relatively high proportions in classes IV and V and very low ones in I and II. that are shown for the conurbation as a whole.

## **POPULATION.**

### **(a) General.**

During the intercensal period 1921-1931 there was a decrease in the population of 0.1%. This loss of population reached the figure of 4.2% for the period of 1931-1951. During this period the natural increase in population—excess of births over deaths—was 12.3%, but this was offset by a loss of 16.5% of the population by migration. The following table shows the rise and fall of the Population in the Urban District since 1901:—

**Hebburn Urban District.**  
**Census Population 1901—1951.**

1901	...	20,901
1911	...	21,763
1921	...	24,168
1931	...	24,123
1951	...	23,098

### **(b) Age Structure of the Population.**

In general it is the group 15-64's which either directly or indirectly must carry the load of dependency, composed of the immatures, (the under 15's), and the old and retired, (the 65's and over).

The table opposite shows that over the last 50 years the age structure of the population of the Urban District has altered considerably. In 1951, pre-school and school children accounted for 25.0% of the population as compared with 38.8% in 1901 and 35.8% in 1921. 8.2% of the 1951 population were retired, double the figure for 1931 and nearly four times the percentage for 1901.

**Age Structure of the Population 1901—1951.**  
(expressed as a percentage of the total population).

	1901	1911	1921	1931	1951
Pre School Group (0-4 yrs.)	14.3	14.0	12.4	10.2	9.5
School Group (5-14 years) ...	24.5	24.4	23.4	23.5	15.5
Worker Group (15-64 years) ...	59.0	58.5	60.6	61.6	66.8
Retired Group (Over 64 years)	2.2	3.1	3.6	4.7	8.2

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**

(a) **Social Groups.**

In the present census the population has been classified according to the Registrar General's Social Groupings which are widely used to study morbidity and mortality.

In brief, these groups are as follows :—

Social Class.	Type of Worker.	Occupied Males Over 15. Hebburn.
I	Professional Workers ... ..	101
II	Intermediate between I & II ... ..	499
III	Skilled artisans and analagous workers...	4,641
IV	Intermediate between II & IV ... ..	1,030
V	Labourers & other unskilled occupations...	1,893
		8,164

It will be seen that over half of the occupied males over 15 years fall into Class III and about one fifth into Class V.

**Percentage of Population in Social Classes.**

Administrative Area.	Social Classes.				
	I	II	III	IV	V
Hebburn U.D.C.	1.2	6.1	56.9	12.6	23.2
Durham County (Admin. Co. & C.B.'s) ...	1.7	9.1	52.0	22.6	14.6
Admin. County..	1.6	8.5	50.6	26.8	12.5
M.B.'s & U.D.'s	1.6	8.2	51.8	23.7	14.7



In Hebburn nearly double the number of households fall into Class V compared with the other administrative areas in the County. The only other local authorities with about 25% of their population comprising Class V are Jarrow Borough 26.6%, and Hartlepool Borough 24.4%.

(b) **Housing.**

It will be seen from the accompanying tables that 12.9% of families in 1921 shared a dwelling as compared with 1.9% in 1951. In 1951 1.1% of all families were living in a separate dwelling of one room as compared with 10.1% in 1921 and 22.4% families were living in 2 roomed dwellings compared with 32.7% in 1931. At the last Census there were more families living in 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, and over roomed dwellings than in 1921 or 1931. Since the 1931 Census the number of families of 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 persons has increased, and families with 6, 7, 8, and 9 and over, persons has decreased.

In 1931, most families consisted of 4 persons being 21.0% of the total; in 1951, 23.7%, 25.9% and 20.1% of the families consisted of 2, 3, and 4 persons respectively. In 1951, the percentage of houses with a single family living in them was 98.2%. In 1.7% two families shared a house and in 0.09% there were more than three families to each dwelling. Corresponding figures for 1921 were 88.5, 10.2 and 1.3%.

	Dwel- lings occupied	No. of Rooms	No. of Private House- holds	% age of families in structurally separate dwellings. (rooms)						
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7 & over
1951	6,526	22,722	6,652	1.1	22.4	30.8	29.4	13.9	1.5	0.9
1931	5,133	16,441	5,551	9.8	32.7	26.2	22.5	5.7	2.6	0.6
1921	4,535	13,999	4,034	10.1	36.8	25.6	20.4	3.5	3.1	0.5

**Dwellings Occupied by:**

	Private Householders.		
	1	2	3 or more.
1951	6,407	113	6
1931	4,733	386	14
1921	3,856	445	56

**Private Households:**

No. of Persons in family.	Total Households.		Average No. of persons per room.	
	1951	1931	1951	1931
1	598	265	0.35	0.50
2	1,578	830	0.62	0.07
3	1,729	1,116	0.90	1.03
4	1,355	1,166	1.14	1.35
5	700	862	1.34	1.62
6	381	567	1.59	1.96
7	178	345	1.70	2.36
8	80	199	2.15	2.65
9	38	123	2.15	2.82
10 or more	35	78	2.30	3.55

## SUMMARY OF JOINT AREA STATISTICS.

General.	Jarrow.	Hebburn.	Felling.	Joint Area.	
				1954	1953.
Area in acres ... ..	1,985	1,563	3,325	6,873	6,953
Population ... ..	29,100	23,480	25,840	78,420	78,390
No. of inhabited houses ...	9,432	7,385	7,915	24,732	23,907
No. of Council houses ...	3,363	2,359	3,870	9,592	8,880
Estimated No. sub-standard	1,073	450	250	1,773	2,069
<b>Vital.</b>					
No. of Births ... ..	640	466	418	1,524	1,504
Birth Rate ... ..	21.99	19.83	16.17	19.33	19.12
No. of still births ... ..	16	16	15	47	50
Still birth rate per 1,000					
live and still births ...	24.39	33.19	34.64	30.74	32.35
Infant Deaths ... ..	18	18	9	45	50
Infant Mortality ... ..	28.12	38.62	21.53	29.42	33.28
Maternal Mortality ... ..	1.52	Nil.	Nil.	0.51	0.53
No. of Deaths ... ..	328	241	284	855	885
General Death Rate ...	11.27	10.21	10.99	10.82	11.20
<b>Principal Causes of Death</b>					
(% age of total deaths).					
<b>(a) Infants under 1 year.</b>					
Infection ... ..	33.3	31.5	22	28.9	27
Congenital deformity ...	11.1	26.3	Nil.	12.5	21
Prematurity ... ..	27.7	21.1	22	23.6	35
Others ... ..	27.7	21.1	56	34.9	17
<b>(b) All Ages.</b>					
Heart Disease ... ..	32.9	31.5	36.97	33.79	30
Respiratory disease ...	13.7	14.1	10.21	12.67	15.9
Cancer ... ..	18.3	17.0	19.01	18.1	17.1
Vascular Disease of					
nervous system ...	15.6	12.8	16.16	14.85	14.6
<b>Infectious Diseases.</b>					
Tuberculosis.					
Respiratory Notifications...	51	45	50	146	171
Non-respiratory					
Notifications ... ..	8	2	7	17	19
Respiratory Incidence Rate	1.75	1.95	1.93	1.86	2.18
Non-respiratory Incidence					
Rate ... ..	0.28	0.09	0.27	0.21	0.24
Respiratory Death Rate ...	0.27	0.22	0.15	0.21	0.28
Non-respiratory Death					
Rate ... ..	0.03	Nil.	0.04	0.03	0.05
<b>Measles.</b>					
Notifications ... ..	404	378	171	935	374
Incidence ... ..	13.8	16.1	6.6	12.15	4.7
<b>Whooping Cough.</b>					
Notifications ... ..	80	75	26	181	426
Incidence ... ..	2.7	3.1	1.0	2.31	5.4
<b>Pneumonia.</b>					
Notifications ... ..	60	36	24	120	150
Incidence ... ..	2.1	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.9
<b>Dysentery.</b>					
Notifications ... ..	25	82	1	108	6
Incidence ... ..	0.8	3.4	0.03	1.4	0.07

Rates are given per 1,000 of the Population.



**SECTION B.****General Provision of Health Services in the Area.****A. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.****1. Staff of Health Department.**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND AREA  
MEDICAL OFFICER

J. A. W. REID, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

W. S. BRUCE, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

P. MILNE, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

SHORTHAND-TYPIST

MISS J. M. GIBSON.

**LABORATORY SERVICES.**

The Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle under Dr. Norton carries out Bacteriological Examinations. The following specimens were submitted for examination during the year:—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total.
Sputum .....	40	229	269
Faeces .....	82	261	343
Throat .....	—	2	2
Urine .....	—	2	2

**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.****Section 47—Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.**

Ten men and four women were visited during the year by the Medical Officer. Five cases were admitted to Hospital, and the remainder were given help in their homes.

**Section 50—Burial or Cremation of Dead.**

One male person died during the year who had no known relatives, and burial had to be effected by the Council.

**REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.**

The Cleansing Superintendent has kindly supplied the following information:—

**REFUSE COLLECTION.**

Number of houses and premises from which refuse  
collected ..... 7,696

One Dennis Paxit Refuse Collector, with carrying capacity of 6 tons, and Two Dennis Refuse Collectors, each with carrying capacity of 3 tons, are engaged on this work, also one two ton Morris Truck is engaged part-time on Salvage and Trade Refuse Collection.

Method of Refuse Disposal is by 100% Controlled tipping.

House Refuse is collected once weekly, and Trade Refuse on an average of three collections per week.

The tipping site is suitably distant from the residential area and the length of haul is approximately one mile.

### STREET CLEANSING.

Mileage of Street Cleansed .....	38.50 miles.
Frequency of Cleansing (a) Daily .....	1.82
(b) 3 Times Weekly .....	1.29
(c) Twice Weekly .....	2.65
(d) Once Weekly .....	35.74
Average gully cleansing per annum .....	8

One Dennis Mechanical Gully Emptier is engaged on this work.

### SALVAGE COLLECTION.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper .....	119	1	1	—	859	17	6
Kitchen Waste .....	12	6	3	—	47	16	0
Textiles .....	—	2	—	14	1	16	2
Rubber Tyres and Tubes .....	—	4	—	—	13	10	
	131	14	0	14	916	3	6

### Collection and Disposal of Refuse during the Year Ending 31st December, 1954.

House and Trade Refuse (excluding salvage) .....	7,891 tons.
Street Sweepings and Gully Sludge .....	539 tons.
Total Refuse disposed of at the tip .....	8,430 tons.
Total salvage collected and disposed of .....	132 tons.
Total .....	8,662 tons.

### RODENT CONTROL.

Two full treatments of the Council's sewers, refuse tip and depot were carried out during the year.



The report required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is for the year ended on 31st March, 1955, in order to avoid confusion the visits and inspections carried out is for this period:

Total Inspections made .....	151
Number of Infestations (Minor) .....	32
Infestation by Rats .....	26
Infestation by Mice .....	6
Dwelling Houses Infested .....	27
Business Premises .....	2
Local Authority Premises .....	3

### **VERMINOUS PREMISES.**

The decrease in the number of houses found to be bug infested continued.

It was necessary to disinfect two premises during the year for fleas.

Insecticide and beetle powder are issued free to householders. This service is found to be of great benefit as it encourages tenants when redecorating to spray rooms after stripping the walls, etc.

### **B. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.**

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for details of the Personal Health Service which are provided by Durham County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, within the Urban District.

The following Clinics are conducted weekly in the Clinic, Argyle Street, Hebburn.

#### **CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.**

(Section 22).

##### **Ante-Natal.**

Sessions : Tuesday and Friday Afternoons.

Wednesday All Day.

The following figures show the number of expectant mothers who attended the Clinic, and the number of visits which these mothers paid to the Clinic.

Number of Mothers .....	348
Attendances .....	1,280

##### **Post-Natal.**

Sessions : Wednesday All Day.

18 Mothers attended the Clinic on one or more occasions.

The total number of attendances during the year was 36.

**Child Welfare.**

Sessions : Tuesday and Fridays All Day.

The following table shows the number of infants and toddlers who attended the Clinic and the number of attendances of these children throughout the year.

No. of Children.			Attendances.		
Under 1.	1-2 yrs.	3-5 yrs.	Under 1.	1-2 yrs.	3-5 yrs.
367	93	170	2,308	280	426

**Artificial Light Clinic.**

Sessions : Tuesday 9-30 a.m.—11 a.m.

Fridays 1-30 p.m.—3-30 p.m.

188 mothers and children attended the clinic during the year.

The total number of attendances during the year was 2,291.

**MIDWIFERY.**

(Section 23).

There are 4 County Midwives in Hebburn. No midwives practice privately in the area.

During the year they attended 233 confinements.

229 live births and 5 still births were notified.

51.9% of expectant mothers had their babies at home and 48.1% in hospital.

**HEALTH VISITING.**

(Section 24).

Three health visitors served the Urban District. The following domiciliary visits were paid during 1954:—

Maternity and Child Welfare .....	5,359
Tuberculosis .....	893
Mental Deficiency .....	218
Schools .....	386
General Health .....	32
Aged People .....	7
	—
Total ...	6,895
	—

The percentage of ineffective visits made was 11.4%.

**HOME NURSING.**

(Section 25).

Two whole-time nurses were employed during the year. They attended 345 patients. 235 being medical cases and 110 surgical cases. 286 new cases were visited in the year. The total number of visits paid to all patients was 10,404.

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

(Section 26).

The Medical Officer of Health conducts a monthly immunisation clinic. Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out by General Practitioners in their surgeries.

The following tables give the number of children vaccinated and immunised at the clinics and by doctors in the district.

### VACCINATION.

### RE-VACCINATION.

Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15 & over	Total	1-15	15 & over	Total
141	6	4	8	159	7	24	31

**Immunisation :** Session : Argyle Street Clinic, Friday 1-30 p.m.

### Primary Immunisations.

### Re-inforcing injections.

Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
157	97	16	14	3	4	NIL	291	—	28	50	3	81

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

(Section 27).

The Urban District is served by the Hebburn Ambulance Control which is situated at 1, St. John's Avenue, Hebburn—Telephone 32157.

The Control is manned by four clerk-telephonists maintaining a 24-hour service. No. 2 Health Area is covered primarily by vehicles from the Hebburn Depot, which has an establishment of one head driver, 27 drivers and 8 ambulances. In addition vehicles from neighbouring depots are utilised as and when necessary either to reinforce or economise in the transport of patients in the area.

### Details of work done by Hebburn Depot during the year.

Calls.	Persons Carried.			Mileage.
	Stretcher.	Sitting.	Total.	
10,512	4,466	22,145	26,611	132,078

N.B.—The above figures do not necessarily include all cases from the area carried since vehicles from other depots are utilised when co-ordination can effect economies.



## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE, AND AFTER-CARE.

(Section 28)

Cases discharged from hospital and requiring after-care are treated by home nurses or supervised and advised by the Health Visitors. Sick room equipment such as urine bottles, bed pans, bed rests, air cushions, mattresses and rubber sheeting can be had on loan.

During the year 111 persons received equipment on loan.

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

(Section 29).

35 home helps were employed in the District during the year and they attended 71 cases. The following types of cases received service during the year :—

Old Age Pensioners	...	...	...	...	61
Sickness	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Maternity	...	...	...	...	3

## C. HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The South Shields Hospital Management Committee administer the Hospitals in the Urban District on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.

There are two Hospitals in the Urban District.

Ellison Hall Hospital has 28 Surgical beds, and Outpatients clinics are conducted at the Hospital.

A 22 bedded Sanitorium takes female patients from the area of the Hospital Management Committee.

Other Hospitals outside the district which serve the area are: —

Ingham Infirmary, South Shields—Medical, Surgery and Maternity Cases.

South Shields General Hospital—Chronic Sick Cases.

Deans Hospitals, South Shields—Infectious Diseases.

Walkergate Hospital—Infectious Diseases.

Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle—Children's Diseases.

Children's Hospital, Gateshead—Children's Diseases.

Danesfield Hospital, Jarrow—Maternity Cases.

## CHEST CLINIC.

The Clinic is at Homer Villa, St. John's Terrace, Jarrow.

Sessions are held weekly as follows :—

Wednesday ... All Day ... Women and Girls.

Monday ... All Day ... Men and Boys.

## VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information, relating to the number of patients from the Hebburn District who were treated at the Newcastle and South Shields Clinics during 1954.

	Syphilis.		Gonorrhoea.		Non-Venereal.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Newcastle ...	1	3	5	6	21	1
South Shields ...	—	—	2	—	7	—
	1	3	7	6	28	1

**Sessions:**—General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle, 4.

Male and Female—

Mondays to Fridays—10 a.m.—12 noon. 3 p.m.—7 p.m.

Saturday—11 a.m.—12 noon. 4-30 p.m.—6-30 p.m.

### South Shields Clinic, Stanhope Road.

**Males**—Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10 a.m.—12-30.

Tuesdays & Fridays 10 a.m.—12-30. 5-30—7-30 p.m.

**Females**—Mondays 5-30—7 p.m.

Wednesdays 2-30—4-30 p.m.

Saturdays 10-30—1 p.m.

## MASS X-RAY.

No. 2 Mass Radiography Unit of the Newcastle Regional Board makes frequent visits to South Tyneside.

The following table gives details of the work done at the last visit of the Unit to the area.

I am indebted to the Secretary of the Unit for the following Statistics.

Total Miniature	...	...	...	1,167
Total Large Films	...	...	...	78
Total to Dispensary	...	...	...	32
Confirmed "Active"	...	...	...	7

## BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

The Regional Blood Transfusion centre is based at Newcastle.

Regular blood donation sessions are held in suitable premises in the Region.

## D. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Seven general practitioners serve the Urban District.

**SECTION C.****Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

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**Water Supply.**

Water is supplied to the district by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The water is an upland supply from the Northumberland moors. The principal reservoir is at Catcleugh. Chlorination is carried out prior to distribution to Tyneside.

A piped water supply is available to all premises in the area, but in a considerable number of the older dwelling houses the supply is from a stand pipe in the yard and shared by several tenants.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**

All sewage is discharged into the River Tyne without treatment. No major stoppages or defects occurred during the year.

**Closet Accommodation.**

There are 7,169 water closets in the area and all premises are now on the water carriage system.

**Rivers and Streams.**

There are only two small watercourses in the Hebburn Area, both of these have been regularly inspected.

**Sanitary Inspection of District.****ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.****To the Medical Officer of Health.**

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during 1954.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. S. BRUCE,

M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I



The following is a summary of complaints and visits of inspection, etc., made during the years:—

Complaints received .....	314
Nuisances .....	35
Drainage, inspection and testing .....	53
Council Houses .....	279
Rehousing investigations .....	566
Housing disrepair .....	506
Clearance Areas .....	273
Closing Orders .....	58
Housing Survey .....	283
Housing Revisits .....	552
Housing Demolition Orders .....	2
Certificate of disrepair .....	6
Water supply .....	22
Overcrowding .....	4
Refuse accommodation .....	32
Food inspection .....	41
Food Premises .....	166
Ice Cream Premises .....	22
Licensed Premises .....	14
Canteens .....	7
Hostel .....	15
Milk and Dairies .....	10
School Kitchen .....	3
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning ....	29
Verminous and dirty premises and persons..	72
Rodent Control .....	141
Sanitary Accommodation .....	20
Factories .....	58
Keeping of Animals .....	8
Sewers .....	2
Fair Ground .....	2
Shop census .....	6
Streams and Watercourses .....	3
Court attendance .....	2
Slaughterhouses .....	15
Atmospheric pollution .....	155
Miscellaneous visits .....	182

## NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

### Buildings.

Roofs and Spouting: Overhauled and Repaired .....	121
Floors and Skirtings: Repaired and Renewed .....	22
Internal Wall and Ceilings Repaired and Renewed .....	40
External Walls: Repaired and Pointed .....	17
Chimneys, Fireplace and Ranges: Repaired and Renewed. ...	23
Floors, Stairs, Windows & Sashcords Repaired and Renewed.	48
Scullery sinks and benches: Repaired and Renewed .....	12
Food Stores: Repaired and Renewed .....	9
Dampness in walls remedied .....	53

### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE.

Waterclosets and choked drains cleared .....	33
Watercloset basin and fittings: Repaired and Renewed .....	24
Gullies and Gratings: Renewed .....	9
Waste Pipes: Repair and Renewed .....	12

### WASHING ACCOMMODATION.

Washing Facilities .....	7
Wash Boiler, Fire Bars, etc.: : Repaired and Renewed .....	4

### YARD AND OUTBUILDINGS.

Yard Paving: Repaired .....	7
Yard Walls and Doors: Repaired and Renewed .....	24
Outbuildings: Repaired and Rebuilt .....	53

### OTHER NUISANCES.

Water supply pipes and Fittings: Repaired and Renewed .....	27
Dustbins: Renewed .....	23

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TOTAL ... 568

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Number of Informal Notices Served .....	345
Number of Statutory Notices Served (Public Health Acts) .....	86

In three instances where the owners failed to comply with the Statutory Notices it was necessary to obtain the Council's consent for legal proceedings.

In each case seven days' notice was given to the owners concerned and the work was carried out before the seven days expired.

### HOSTEL

The privately owned workmen's Hostel has been regularly inspected during the year and found to be satisfactorily maintained.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

29 Visits were made to cases of infectious disease and food poisoning notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

Disinfection was carried out where necessary.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The two atmospheric deposit gauges continued recording throughout the year.

A very close watch was kept on industrial premises for smoke pollution. Six warning letters regarding smoke and fumes were sent out and representatives of one firm met the Council and agreed to extend certain chimneys in this factory.

Permission to make a Byelaw regulating the emission of smoke in accordance with the Model Byelaw Series XXV was applied for but had not been obtained at the end of the year.

The Beaver Committee Report on Air Pollution was received during the year. No mention is made in this report on the pollution which occurs due to vessels using rivers or inland waterways, which is a difficult problem on the River Tyne.

### ANALYSIS OF DEPOSIT IN TWO GAUGES.

	Palmers Hebburn.		Cemetery.	
	Total for 11 Months	Monthly Average	Total for 12 Months	Monthly Average
<b>Rainfall</b> (inches) ... ..	26.83	2.44	29.39	2.45
English tons per square mile				
<b>Total Insoluble Matter</b> ...	120.11	10.93	109.09	9.09
Tar ... ..	2.09	0.18	2.18	0.18
Ash ... ..	71.22	6.47	62.44	5.20
Other Combustible Matter ...	47.00	4.27	44.49	3.71
<b>Total Soluble Matter</b> ...	100.13	9.10	88.22	7.35
Lime as CA ... ..	4.84	0.44	4.34	0.36
Chlorine as CL ... ..	19.46	1.77	18.30	1.52
Sulphate as SO ... ..	26.33	2.39	16.74	1.39
<b>Total Solids (in Tons)</b> ...	220.44	20.04	197.31	16.43

This deposit is equal to about 543 tons falling on the 2.6 square miles of Hebburn in a year or over 10 tons per week.



**FACTORIES ACT.****Inspections.**

The following inspections of factories were made during the year :--

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Notices. Writtten	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....	14	15	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	50	36	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	7	7	—	—
Total ...	69	58	1	—

Action taken in respect of defects found in course of inspection :—  
Number of cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred.		Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) insufficient .....	1	1	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective .....	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes .....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .....	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	—	1	—

**Outworkers.**

There were 3 Outworkers engaged in making and cleaning wearing apparel.

**SECTION D.****Housing in the Area.****Tabular Statement for Year 1954.**

	Houses Completed During the Year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
(a) By Local Authority ... ..	239	—		239
(b) By other Bodies or Persons ... ..	—	4		4
	239	4		243 <sup>1</sup>

**1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year.**

(1) Total Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Act) .....	514
(2) Number of dwelling houses (included in (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	169
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	8
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	—

**2. Remedy of Defects Without Service of Formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers .....	345
---	-----

**3. Action under Statutory Powers.**

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....	—
(a) By Owners .....	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	86

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners .....	86
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	7
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	1
<b>4. Number of Houses Permanently Discontinued as Dwellings and Not Included Above .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Housing Act 1949 (Sec. 20).	
(1) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which application for grant have been received .....	—
(2) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which application for grant have been approved .....	—
Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 (Sec 26).	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which applications for certificates of disrepair have been received .....	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which applications for certificates of disrepair were :—	
(a) Granted .....	5
(b) Refused .....	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which applications for revocation of certificates of disrepair have been received .....	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which applications for revocation of certificates of disrepair were :—	
(a) Granted .....	—
(b) Refused .....	—



### CLEARANCE AREAS.

#### Hebburn (Lyon Street) Clearance Area 1954.

The Council declared this area on the 21st December, 1954. The area comprises 10 dwelling houses, housing 10 families (31 persons).

#### Hebburn (William Street and Bewick Street) Clearance Order 1953.

The Council declared this area on the 21st December, 1954. The area comprises 18 dwelling houses and 3 shops, housing 17 families (69 persons).

#### Hebburn (William Street No. 2) Clearance Order 1953.

This Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in May, 1952, with the exception of a builders store which was excluded from the Order. All the families in the area were rehoused by the Council and the buildings demolished.

#### Hebburn (Lyon Street No. 1) Clearance Order 1953.

This Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in May, 1954, with the exception of 1 dwelling house and 1 combined house and shop which were excluded from the Order. All the families in the area were re-housed by the Council.

#### Hebburn (Glen Street) Clearance Order 1953.

This Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government without variations in May, 1954. All the families except one were re-housed by the Council.

#### Hebburn (Edward Street) Clearance Order 1952.

The remaining buildings in this area were demolished during the year.

### INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

.....The following unfit houses were dealt with during the year— .....

The following unfit houses were dealt with during the year :—

44 bk. William Street	...	...	Closing Order.
3 Redhead Terrace	...	...	„ „
23 Redhead Terrace	...	...	„ „
42 Bk. William Street	...	...	„ „
100 William Street	...	...	„ „
121 William Street	...	...	„ „
30 Lyon Street	...	...	„ „
Burn Head Farm	...	...	Demolished by Owner.
22 Rose Street	...	...	Demolition Order.

With the exception of Burn Head Farm, all the tenants of the above houses were re-housed by the Council.

### **SLUM CLEARANCE.**

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which came into operation in August required the Council to submit, for the approval of the Minister of Housing and Local Government within the ensuing 12 months, proposals for dealing in one way or another with the houses in their area which appear to them to be unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition. An estimate for the total number of such houses and the period the Council think they will need to secure the demolition of these houses together with a programme of action for the next five years was required.

A survey of potential areas was commenced in 1950 and a fairly accurate picture already existed of the problem in Hebburn.

The proposals approved by the Council and submitted to the Minister envisaged the clearance of some 828 houses within 5 years.

Up to the end of 1954, 76 houses and 4 other premises have been demolished or have been declared Clearance Areas by the Council. These properties were dealt with prior to the above mentioned proposals and are therefore not included in the figures submitted to the Minister.

In addition to the foregoing the Council has either closed or secured the demolition of 89 individual unfit houses since the end of the war.

**SECTION E.****Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises.**

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**MILK SUPPLY.**

At the end of the year there were 96 registered distributors, namely, 67 for the sale of sterilised milk, 25 for pasteurised milk, and 3 for Tuberculosis Tested Milk and 1 for accredited milk.

All milk now sold in the district is bottled.

There are no registered dairies in the district.

**ICE CREAM.**

During the year 3 premises were registered for the sale of ice cream under the provision of section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and two premises ceased to retail ice cream.

There are 42 premises registered in the district, 3 for manufacture and sale and 39 for retail only.

22 visits were made to registered premises.

**MEAT.**

No slaughtering is carried out in the district. All butchers shops were regularly inspected.

**FOOD PREMISES.**

Food premises were regularly visited during the year, 166 inspections were carried out. One Fish Frying and one General Dealing business were discontinued and the premises demolished.

Three new shops were opened on one of the Council's Estates. These were occupied by a General Dealer, a Greengrocer, and a Butcher.

In addition to verbal advice and warnings six written notices were served for contraventions of the Byelaws, Regulations or Act.

Unsatisfactory conditions found during visits included defects in washing up facilities in a works canteen, the keeping of animals in food premises, personal clothing in cafe kitchen and sink, dirty sanitary accommodation, fish refuse containers and cakes on open counters, etc.

Distribution of bread and cakes by delivery vans to small shops continues to be a problem. The bread and cakes are handled by the vehicles driver who has no facilities for hand washing.

All bread and cakes delivered by this method and handled by the driver should be in wrapped containers only.



The number and type of food premises in the district are as follows :-

TYPE OF BUSINESS.	No. of premises registered under Section 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.		Other Premises.	TOTAL.
	(a) Ice Cream.	(b) Preserved &c. Food.		
Factory Canteens ...	—	16	—	16
Cafes & restaurants ...	1	5	—	6
Ice cream manufacturers ...	3	—	—	3
Hotels & public houses ...	—	2	10	12
Licensed Clubs ...	—	—	9	9
School kitchen ...	—	1	—	1
Butchers ...	1	13	6	20
Pork Butchers ...	—	4	—	4
Bakers & confectioners ...	2	—	8	10
Fish mongers and fryers ...	—	12	3	15
Grocers ...	—	—	22	22
Greengrocers ...	2	—	12	14
General dealers (including 5 beer shops) ...	31	—	45	76
Social Service Centre ...	1	—	—	1
	41	53	115	209

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Consistent inspections and talks to employees seem to be the only successful method of educating food handlers.

Film shows and meetings have all been tried but a very poor response was obtained.

Regular visits and personal contact give the best results.

### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

A dairy firm with premises outside the district were summoned for failing to cleanse a milk vessel before use contrary to Paragraph 26 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The case was heard before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the firm were fined £20 plus costs.

The interior of a bottle containing Orange Sun-up was found to be dirty when delivery took place. The matter was reported to the Council and after consideration it was agreed that the firm be warned as this was their first offence.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption during the year :—

Meat.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Number.
Beef (Imported) .....		2	18	
Canned and Bottled Foods.				
Meat .....	1			
Pork .....			21	
Ham .....		2	25	
Fish .....			2	
Corned Beef .....			27	
Tongue .....			6	
Brisket .....			4	
Stewed Steak .....			6	
Soups .....			4	
Fruit .....			22	
Tomatoes .....			3	
Vegetables .....		2	9	
Milk .....				132 Tins
Spaghetti .....			1	
Chicken .....				1 Jar
Apricots .....	1	0	11	
Total .....	4	3	19	

All the above food was destroyed at the Council's refuse tip.

FOOD ANALYSIS.

Return of Samples submitted for Analysis from the Urban District of Hebburn by Durham County Council, during the year ending 31st December, 1954.

Article.	Number Analysed.			Number adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity.		
	Formal.	Informal.	Total.	Formal.	Informal.	Total.
Butter ...	1		1			
Jam .. ...	1		1			
Lard ... ..	1		1			
Milk ... ..	14		14	4		4
Meat Paste ...	1		1			
Potted Meat ...	1		1			
Sausage ... ..	2		2			
Sugar ... ..	1		1			
Tea ... ..	1		1			
	23	—	23	4	—	4

Two of the milks were adulterated with water, for which fines of £20 in each case plus £2 2s. 0d. costs were imposed. Two milks were genuine but below standard ; the remainder of samples were genuine.

## SECTION F.

## Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

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The number of infectious diseases notified increased from 371 last year to 635. The largest increase was in measles. The notified new cases of Pulmonary tuberculosis fell from 55 last year to 45 for 1954.

Increases which occurred on the annual figures for 1953 were Acute Poliomyelitis (2), Measles (322), Dysentery (82), Paratyphoid (2), Meningitis (1).

Decreases occurred in the notification of the following diseases:—Scarlet Fever (13), Whooping Cough (72), Pneumonia (2), Food Poisoning (2), Puerperal Pyrexia (2), Erysipelas (3).

### 1. **Scarlet Fever.**

Twenty five cases were notified during the year. Eight were admitted to Hospital. There were no deaths from the disease. The disease continues to be mild.

### 2. **Erysipelas.**

Two cases were notified.

### 3. **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

One case was notified during the year. The notifications in previous years were : 1953, 3, 1952, Nil, 1951, Nil.

### 4. **Measles.**

Measles was the most prevalent infectious disease during the year. Notifications rose from 56 in 1953, to 378 in 1954.

### 5. **Whooping Cough.**

75 Cases occurred in 1954. The higher incidence (32%) occurred in school children between the ages of 6 and 9 years.

### 6. **Pneumonia.**

Of the 38 cases notified 18 were admitted to Hospital. The greatest number of cases were in the 45-64 age group.

### 7. **Meningococcal Infection.**

Two cases were notified during the year.

### 8. **Food Poisoning.**

No cases of Food Poisoning were brought to the notice of the Health Department in 1954.

### 9. **Diphtheria.**

No cases were notified during the year. A.P.T. was distributed to the medical practitioners in the Urban District.



### 10. Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Two cases were notified during the year. One, an infant, had paralysis of one arm, and the other, was a child with a mild facial palsy.

### 11. Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the incidence and deaths of cases by age and sex within the year :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1								
1 to 5								
5 to 15	3	1		1				
15 to 25	7	7						
25 to 35	5	4		1	1	1		
35 to 45	1	3						
45 to 55	7	3			1			
55 to 65	3	1						
65 and upwards					1			
TOTAL	26	19		2	3	1	...	...

### 12. Dysentery.

Duplicates of the results of specimens submitted by general practitioners to the Public Health Laboratory are made available to all Medical Officers of Health.

From these it was noted that in July some general practitioners were alive to the possibility of dysentery being present in the Urban District.

All the specimens submitted in this month were negative. However, at the beginning of August a child, who had attended a Day Nursery before its closure for the holiday week, was brought to the notice of the Health Department. Subsequent enquiries that day revealed that 6 Day Nursery children had mild gastro-intestinal symptoms. *Shiga sonnei* was isolated from five of these children and two of their mothers.

All the mothers of the children at the day nursery were interviewed and children who had symptoms were referred to their own Doctors and excluded until proved free from infection.

Investigations were carried out amongst the staff of the Nursery and the children who gave no history of recent illness. It was found that 39 children and 7 staff had organisms in their stools while 32 children were free from infection. All the staff and about a quarter of the children were carriers.

The general practitioners and the head teachers were advised of the presence of the disease in the community and were asked for their co-operation in preventing the spread of the disease.

During August and September, fifteen persons were referred by the general practitioners for investigation and all were proved free from infection.

About the middle of September a scholar at a Nursery School was found to be infected. The Staff showed no evidence of infection but two scholars had symptoms and three had had symptoms some days previously. The latter were found to be carriers and the former cases. In two instances other brothers and sisters gave histories of mild gastrointestinal symptoms and *shiga sonnei* was found in their stool.

Some days later six children, 4 boys and 2 girls were referred to the Health Department by the Head Teacher of a Secondary School. All had sickness, vomiting and diarrhoea lasting between two and four days but faecal examinations did not show the presence of dysentery organisms. These children were in different classes and no contacts developed symptoms. The cause could not be attributed to the Schools Meals Service.

In October two cases occurred in a primary school and four in a similar school nearby. In the case of the latter it was found that all the children lived in close proximity and that other members of their families were infected.

The highest incidence of cases (39%) occurred in the 3-4 age group. Over one quarter of the cases were between the ages of one and two years and only one case under one year was notified.

The incubation period between successive cases in a household varied between one day and seven days.

In 15 instances other members of the family were found to be infected after the first case had been discovered.

The shortest time necessary to secure three negative specimens from confirmed cases was 7 days and the longest 125 days.

10.3% of the cases notified were clear of infection within 14 days; a further 34.6% within 28 days and 15.4% more within 28 days. In 39.7% of the cases the time taken to control the infection was over 28 days.

The following table shows the distribution of cases and suspected cases by housing standards :—

House Standard	All Households Investigated		Households with a confirmed case		Confirmed Cases	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Poor ...	50	30.6	14	33.3	32	39
Fair ...	80	49.1	16	38.1	21	25.6
Good ...	33	20.3	12	28.9	29	35.4

No evidence could be found of spread through school meals or contaminated food. It would appear that the method of entry of the infection into the Nursery was by children with mild symptoms of the disease who were not taken to their own doctors or who had received treatment but no bacteriological investigation. Most Doctors treated their patients in the first instance with a sulphonamide. In 10 persistent temporary carriers oral Streptomycin was advised and the infection was quickly controlled.

During the outbreak 163 families were investigated and 1,359 specimens were submitted for examination.

I am grateful for the willing and able assistance given by Dr. Norton and his co-workers in the Public Health Laboratory Newcastle, the General Practitioners No. 2 Area, the County Health and Education Staff, the general public, and my own staff in the Public Health Department.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Table Showing Age incidence, Deaths, &c.

Disease.	Number of cases notified (Corrected Figures.)										Hospital.	Deaths.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever ...	9	—	2	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	8	—
Whooping Cough ...	75	8	20	23	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ...	378	12	139	125	101	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	38	3	4	2	4	4	6	8	12	5	18	11
Dysentery ...	82	1	22	32	12	4	1	4	—	—	3	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Meningococcal infection ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Cases notified during 1954.

Diseases.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	9
Pneumonia ...	3	2	8	3	3	1	2	3	—	3	3	5	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	44	6	19	11	—	82
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Meningococcal Inf. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Measles ...	1	1	37	134	125	59	11	6	1	3	—	—	378
Whooping Cough ...	1	2	6	12	12	9	5	7	8	3	4	6	75
Tuberculosis (Resp.)	2	4	7	13	4	—	1	—	1	6	4	3	45
Tuberculosis (Other)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2













